

Social Security

A Special
Examination
Is Needed For
Your Disability
Claim



www.ssa.gov

A Special Exam Is Needed For Your Disability Claim

This leaflet tells you about the special examination or test that is needed for your disability case. If you have any further questions after reading this, call the phone number shown on the letter you received notifying you of the examination.

The disability determination services (DDS) in your state that makes disability decisions for the Social Security Administration is currently reviewing your disability claim. The evaluation team (made up of a disability examiner and a medical or psychological consultant) needs more evidence before they can decide if you are disabled under Social Security law. So, you are being asked to have a special examination at government expense. The examination will be performed by your doctor or another doctor.

How Long Will The Exam Last?

The type of examination needed, and how long it takes, depends on what the information already given by you and your medical sources shows about your disability. In some cases, a single test lasting a short time is all that is needed. In other cases, an examination and additional tests that take more time may be necessary.

The particular examination requested is intended to provide only the additional medical evidence needed to help the DDS make a decision in your case.

If a doctor who is not your regular doctor performs your exam or test, we can send a copy of the results of the exam to your doctor if you ask us.

How Will The Exam Be Conducted?

The doctor (or other medical person) who sees you will only conduct the examination and get specific information requested by the DDS for your case. The doctor will not take part in deciding whether you are disabled or in prescribing treatment for you. During your visit, specially trained people may help the doctor (or other medical person) by taking down information about your condition and doing certain tests. After the visit, the doctor will review the results and send a report to the DDS.

What Will The State Disability Agency Do?

When the DDS staff receives the report of the examination, they will review it along with all other information in your case. You will be notified of the decision in writing. If you do not agree with the decision, you have certain appeal rights which are explained in the letter you get.

What Should I Do?

It is your responsibility to cooperate in taking the requested examination or test. If you cannot keep the appointment, let the DDS know right away so a more suitable time can be arranged. (The phone number and address are provided with the letter you receive notifying you of the examination.) If you don't let the DDS know that you can't keep the appointment, the staff there will make a decision based solely on the information already available in your case. This may result in a decision that you are not disabled.

Remember

- Try to keep your appointment. Failure to do so may result in an unfavorable decision in your case.
- If you cannot keep the appointment, let the DDS know right away.
- The government will pay only for the authorized examination or test and for certain related travel expenses.

For More Information

Check our website at *www.socialsecurity.gov* for answers to many of the questions you may have about Social Security. You also may call us toll-free at **1-800-772-1213**. We can answer specific questions by phone from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. on business days and provide information by automated phone service 24 hours a day. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

We treat all calls confidentially—whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to one of our local offices. We also want to ensure that you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some incoming and outgoing telephone calls.

Social Security Administration

SSA Publication No. 05-10087

March 2003 (August 2002 edition may be used)

ICN 468580

Unit of Issue—HD (one hundred)



Printed on recycled paper